

# Data without Boundaries

## A European Project to Enhance Access to Official Microdata

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Data without Boundaries

EDDI 2012



# DwB project in a nutshell

- A European Commission FP7 project 2011-2015
- Overall objective
  - Enhance researchers' access to official microdata in Europe
    - Both national and European
  - Focus on transnational access within the ERA
  - Focus on confidential microdata
- How ?
  - A dialogue between two existing infrastructures :  
CESSDA (Data archives European network) and the  
European Statistical System (ESS) ie NSIs, NSAs, Central Banks, Eurostat, ECB
  - Building on volunteering partners from the different communities
  - Proposing standards and setting up pilots
  - Enlarging the discussions and agreements to the whole communities



# Main issues

*How to facilitate transnational access to official microdata (SUF and confidential)*

- Legal issues
- Accreditation issues (multiple accreditation)
- Technical and methodological issues (European remote access network)
- **But we need...**

## **Front office**

- Build a central point of access where the researchers can discover what data are available and offer user-friendly metadata
- Avoiding creating silos
  - linking the ESS and the CESSDA portal

# Metadata issues

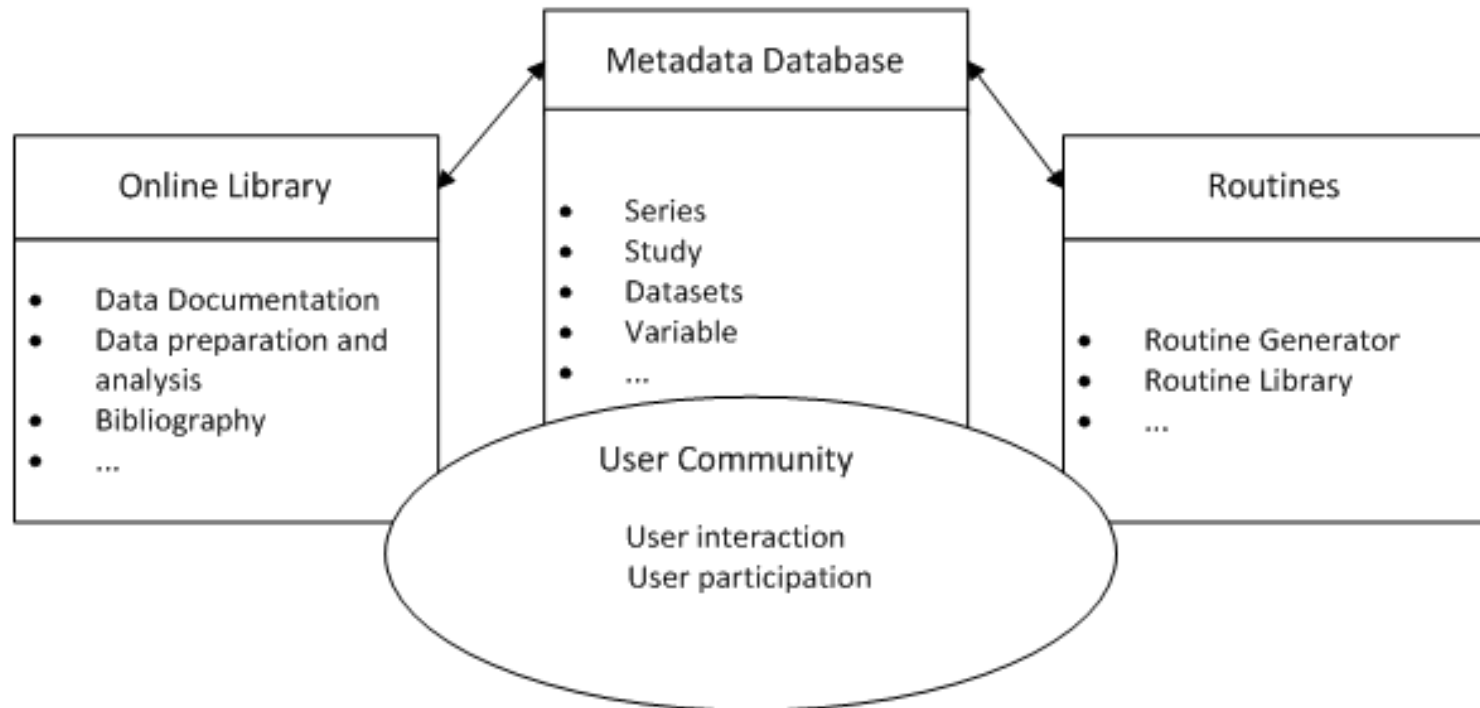
- In a fragmented landscape for official microdata
  - NSIs, NSAs, Eurostat .... and CESSDA partners
  - A lot of information not available, not structured
  - Different metadata standards
- Objectives
  - Provide an overview of metadata standards usage and current projects in NSIs and Data Archives in Europe
  - Participate and contribute to the SDMX/DDI dialogue
  - Contribute to a consistent mapping between SDMX and DDI
  - Draft a metadata model that could be used for harvesting NSIs metadata
  - Collect and structure information about available national and European microdata in a way compatible with the proposed metadata model

All this will feed into a European Service Centre for OS to be linked to the CESSDA portal

# European Service Centre for OS data

- Offer overview of existing official statistics microdata in Europe available for research, including information on access conditions and contact points
- Offer detailed metadata for integrated European microdata from official statistics, i.e. data prepared by Eurostat and European census data from IECM (Barcelona)
- Offer routines to work with these data
- Offer training for official statistics microdata
- Provide platform for discussion and exchange
- Organize exchange between data producers, i.e. NSIs, service providers, e.g. data archives, and research community

# Structure of European Service Centre Web Service



# Presentations

- **Arofan Gregory & Marion Wittenberg: Resource Discovery for Official Statistics**

First the requirements and functionality of a web portal offering information on and metadata for official statistics are discussed. Then the metadata model and its relationship to DDI and other standards will be presented. This work is part of WP8 and 12 of DwB.

- **Raphaëlle Fleureux, Cyril Jayet & Arnaud Szulek: CIMES: A Tool for Describing European Official Statistics Microdata**

A web-based tool developed under DwB WP5 to document microdata bases. With its help we hope to finally arrive at a complete catalogue of microdata from official statistics throughout Europe and thereby improve access and comparative research.



# Thank you for your attention!

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# Institutional Framework of European Service Centre

